GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2621
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Death of Fishes
Samal Dr. Kulamani

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of dead fishes and other water species floating in river Balijhara and Kaudia near Paradip region in Odisha due to alleged hole in pipeline of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) thereby affecting the local people and fishermen community in the vicinity;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether any Central team from the Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Kaushalyaganga has visited the site to find out the cause;

(d) if so, the details of findings; and

(e) whether the Government is taking any concrete steps to protect the region especially, water sources from pollution due to oil spills and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) has reported two incidents of mass fish death occurred in the Paradeep region. While one incident occurred in Kaudia River near Paradeep due to leakage from oil pipeline of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), the other incident occurred at Balijhar and Bata river due to hypoxic condition resulting from excessive discharge of sewage and waste disposal.

(c) Yes, sir.

(d) The Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) had visited the site of fish kill at Paradeep and submitted its report with observations which include that the water quality had high total alkalinity, phosphate, nitrogen and heavy organic load and partial fish mortality was due to oxygen depletion.

(e) The OSPCB has directed IOCL to take immediate measures such as strengthening of patrolling system, lighting of pipeline corridor, use of advanced leak detection system etc. and preparedness to deal with oil leakage from pipeline. The OSPCB has also directed the Paradeep Municipality and District Administration to take immediate steps to remove temporary toilets, proper channelization and diversion of sewage drainage network to avoid contamination of Balijhar and Bata river.

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